

Chapter 4: Regulations Affecting Medical Professionals in Malaysia

4.0 Regulations Affecting Medical Professionals in Malaysia

This chapter provides an overview of the regulations affecting the medical professionals in Malaysia. It should be emphasized that the regulations discussed would cut across the whole healthcare sector and occupations. While this chapter focuses mainly on the occupational Acts in the healthcare sector, other employment regulations that may influence HR practices are not included in the review (Box 4-1).

Box 4.1: Employment regulations that may influence HR Practices

- i. *Employment Act 1955* (Act 265)
- ii. Sabah Labour Ordinance- [Sabah [Cap.67]
- iii. Sarawak Labour Ordinance - Sarawak [Cap 76]
- iv. *Trade Unions Act 1959* (Revised – 1982 (Act 262)
- v. *Workers' Minimum Standards Of Housing And Amenities Act 1990* (Act 446)
- vi. *Minimum Retirement Age Act 2012* (Act 753)
- vii. *Employees Provident Fund Act 1991* (Act 452)
- viii. *Industrial Relations Act 1967* (Revised – 1976) (Act 177)
- ix. *Holidays Act 1951* (Revised - 1989) (Act 369)
- x. *Workmen's Compensation Act 1952* (Revised - 1982) (Act 273)
- xi. *Weekly Holidays Act 1950* (Revised 1979) (Act 220)
- xii. *Minimum Wages Order 2013*

Source: Author

4.1 Regulatory Overview of Medical Professionals in Malaysia

A Medical Professional is someone who provides preventive, curative, promotional or rehabilitative healthcare services in a systematic way to individuals, families or communities. A health professional covered under this study may be within medicine, midwifery, dentistry, nursing or pharmaceutical professions. These professionals are persons formally certified by a professional body as belonging to a specific profession within healthcare by virtue of having completed a required course of study and/or practice, and whose competence can usually be measured against an established set of standards.

For the purpose of this review, the scope will be narrowed down into two main medical professionals servicing the health industry, which are Doctors and Nurses. Nurses shall also cover specialised nursing areas including dental nurses and midwives. These professionals are selected from a list of eight professions as they represent the majority of the professionals within the industry. They do not only provide services to the health industry but also other sectors such as education and tourism while also contributing to the health of all citizens and thus the supply of healthy labour force. Hence, any improvements in the regulation of these professionals may add value to all sectors and to social wellbeing.

The roles and description of medical professionals under this study are both legally and functionally defined, as follows:

Table 4.1 : Roles and description of medical professionals

Roles	Descriptions
Doctors	Doctors are persons who are entitled to be provisionally registered as a medical practitioner (<i>Medical Act 1971, Sec 29</i>). Functionally, medical doctors examine, diagnose and treat patients. They can specialise in a number of areas such as paediatrics, anaesthesiology or cardiology, or they can work as general practice physicians (CPC Medical Doctors Board of Malaysia, 2014).
Dentists	Dental practitioners registered in Division II of the Register; (<i>Dental Act 1971</i>). Functionally, dentists are health care practitioners who specialize in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions of the oral cavity (CPC Dentist Board of Malaysia, 2014).
Pharmacists	Licensed to carry out a business, so far as such business relates to the keeping, retailing, dispensing, and compounding of poisons, dangerous drugs or therapeutic substances, in compliance with a few conditions stated in <i>Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951 (REVISED - 1989)</i> , <i>Poison Act 1952</i> and <i>Dangerous Drug Act 1952</i> . Functionally, pharmacists are drugs experts, responsible in dispensing medications, educating

Roles	Descriptions
	consumers on the use of over-the-counter medicines and advising other health professionals on drug decisions (CPC Pharmacist Board of Malaysia, 2014).
Nurses	Person registered as a nurse in accordance with any written law relating to the registration of nurses for the sick (<i>Midwives Act 1966 (REVISED - 1990)</i>) Functionally, nurses contribute to the health and welfare of society through protection, promotion and restoration of health; the prevention of illness and the alleviation of suffering in the care of individuals, families and communities (CPC Nursing Board of Malaysia, 2014).

Medical professionals being a party within the professional services industry covers the activities of various Acts governing the professional codes of conduct. Generally, there are about 150 Acts governing the practice of Medical Professionals.

The main Acts include:

- i. *Medical Act 1971 (Act 50)*
- ii. *Dental Act 1971 (Act 51)*
- iii. *Nurses Act 1950 (Act 14)* & Nurses Registration Regulations 1985
- iv. *Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951 (Act 371)* & Registration of Pharmacists Regulations 2004

The main objective of the professional Acts is to govern the practise of professionals in the interest of the public and the nation. However, there are instances where over-regulating of these professions have led to unnecessary burdens on the practitioners and result in higher costs or poorer service to the public. Unnecessarily demanding Acts, rules and regulations need to be reviewed to make accreditation, career growth and practice easier and to boost the effectiveness of medical services.

Table 4.2 : Medical professional and their professional boards

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL	PROFESSIONAL BOARDS
Doctors	Malaysian Medical Council
Dentist	Malaysian Dental Council
Nurses	Malaysian Nursing Board
Pharmacists	Malaysia Pharmacy Board

These bodies are governed by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) and operate under specific Codes of Professional Conduct (CPC) as specified in the *Medical Act 1971* and related Acts and Licensing requirements as listed below. For this review, please refer to Table 2.2 for the professionals listed in line no 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Table 4.3 : List of Medical Professionals under MOH, Acts, Regulators and APC.

No.	Professions	Acts & Regulations	Regulators	Licensing
1	Medical practitioner (Doctors) & specialists	Medical Act 1971 (Act 50)	Malaysian Medical Council	Registration & Annual Practicing Certificate
2	Dentists	Dental Act 1971 (Act 51)	Malaysian Dental Council	Registration & Annual Practicing Certificate
3	Nurses	Nurses Act 1950 (Act 14) & Nurses Registration Regulations 1985	Malaysia Nursing Board	Registration & Annual Practicing Certificate
4	Midwives	Midwifery Act 1966 (Act 436)	Malaysia Midwife Board	Registration & Annual Practicing Certificate
5	Pharmacists	Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951 (Act 371) & Registration of Pharmacists Regulations 2004	Malaysia Pharmacy Board	Certification of Registration & Annual Retention of Registration
6	Medical Assistants	Medical Assistants (Registration) Act 1977 (Act 180)	Medical Assistants (Registration) Board	Annual Certificate of Registration
7	Opticians & Optometrists	Optical Act 1991 (Act 469)	Malaysian Optical Council	Registration and Annual Practicing Certificate
8	Allied Health Professionals (32 categories)	Bill has been drafted.		Registration required by 2011.

Source: MPC, 2014

4.2 Development of the Medical Professional Regulation Framework

Reported by the WHO, currently, the public sector health services in Malaysia are centrally administered by the Ministry of Health through its central, state and district offices. Other government departments also provide health services to specific populations. The Ministry of Higher Education runs the university teaching hospitals, the Ministry of Defence has several military hospitals and medical centres and the Department of Aboriginal (Orang Asli) Affairs provides health services to the indigenous population in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The Department of Social Welfare provides nursing homes for the elderly, the Ministry of Home Affairs manages the drug rehabilitation centres and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government provides environmental health services and limited health services, such as in the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory. The categorization of these regulators/ government bodies can be seen below in Table 4-3: Value Chain mapped against Relevant Acts / Regulations.

The value chain covered within the study starts from the stage of acquiring education until the departure from professional medical practice:

Figure 4.1 : The Value Chain of Medical Professional



In this context, the scope of this review shall cover the following:

- Tertiary education required to obtain the first certificate to be certified and to practise within the field of medicine (minimum requirements, supply vs. demand, quality);
- Placement as junior practitioners (e.g. houseman ship, trainee nurse);
- Delivering services (in MOH hospitals or private practices) - Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and other requirements;
- Qualifying for specialisation (e.g. requirements based on the number of years of service, demand for specialist and the areas of specialisation);

- The completion or termination of practice.

To understand the current regulations that are governing each step within the Value Chain, herewith is the list of regulations, Acts and relevant requirements with the Ministries and Regulators responsible. Each process is mapped against related regulations, acts and requirements to enable respondents to examine the regulatory issues that are encumbering each process within the chain.

Table 4.4 : Value Chain mapped against Relevant Acts / Regulations

STAGE	ACTIVITIES / PROCESSES	ACTS & REGULATIONS	REGULATORS
• Pre-Qualification			
Pre-Qualification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tertiary Education pre-requisite. 2. Entry into certified medical schools. 3. Qualifying Examinations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Education Act 1996</i> (ammd. 2006). • <i>MQA Act 2007</i> • <i>Medical Act (1971)</i> • <i>Private Higher Education Act 555</i> (1996 amend 2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) • Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Boards of Each Medical Professional
• General Practices & Specialisation			
Service Entry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with Placement / Housemanship requirement in MOH Hospitals. 2. Restrictions to overseas graduates and foreigners. 3. Additional Requirements for overseas graduates from certain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Education Act 1996</i> (ammd. 2006). • <i>Medical Act (1971)</i> – Amend 2012 • <i>Private Higher Education Act 555</i> (1996 amend 2006) • Medical Regulations 1974 • Medical (Setting for Provisional Registration) Regulations 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Ministry of Human Resource • Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) • Malaysia Nursing Board. • Pharmacy Board • Malaysia Dental Association (MDA)

STAGE	ACTIVITIES / PROCESSES	ACTS & REGULATIONS	REGULATORS
	countries and private institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nurses Act 1950</i> (Amend 1980) • Medical Qualifying Exams. • <i>Registration of Pharmacist Act 1951</i> • <i>Midwives Act 1966</i> (Rev 1990) • <i>Malaysia employment Act 1955.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midwives Board
General Practitioners and Advancement – Specialisation	<p>MOH Hospitals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirements for entry into practice. 2. Career advancement-availability of patients and cases to improve competencies / Continuing Professional Development (CPD) 3. Requirements to qualify for Specialisation. 4. Obtaining specialisation - field of study: Fitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Medical Act (1971)</i> – Amend 2012 • Medical Regulations 1974 • Medical (Setting for Provisional Registration) Regulations 2012 • <i>Nurses Act 1950</i> (Amend 1980) • <i>Registration of Pharmacist Act 1951</i> • <i>Midwives Act 1966</i> (Rev 1990) • <i>Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act 1998.</i> • PDPA 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Ministry of Human Resource. • Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism. • Ministry of Trade and Industry (Tourist Development Corporation-TDC) • Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) • Malaysia Nursing Board. • Pharmacy Board • Malaysia Dental Association (MDA)

STAGE	ACTIVITIES / PROCESSES	ACTS & REGULATIONS	REGULATORS
	<p>supply with demand.</p> <p>5. Code of Conduct</p> <p>6. Registration and Licenses to practice</p> <p>Private Practices:</p> <p>1. Qualification to practice in private practices.</p> <p>2. Statutory Registration.</p> <p>3. Professional Registration/ Licenses.</p> <p>4. Sales of Drugs.</p> <p>5. Codes of Conduct :Private Healthcare Regulations</p> <p>6. Maintenance and Administration of practice location / professional license/ registration/ medical employees.</p> <p>7. Provide support for Health Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malaysian Health Promotion Board Act 2006.</i> • <i>Fees Act 1951 – Fees Medical Rev 1994)</i> • <i>Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951 (Rev- 1989)</i> • <i>Medicines (Advertisement & Sales) Act 1956 (Rev-1983)</i> • <i>Dental Act 1971</i> • <i>Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (Rev 1980)</i> • <i>Malaysia Tourism Board Act 1992</i> • <i>Malaysia Employment Act 1955.</i> • <i>Medical Devices Act.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midwives Board • Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit/Termination 			

STAGE	ACTIVITIES / PROCESSES	ACTS & REGULATIONS	REGULATORS
Termination/ Exit	Exit process 1. While under contract 2. After contract expiry 3. Natural attrition (retirement). 4. Disciplinary – Force to exit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Regulations 1974 • Medical (Setting for Provisional Registration) Regulations 2012 • <i>Nurses Act 1950</i> (Amend 1980) • Medical Qualifying Exams. • <i>Registration of Pharmacist Act 1951</i> • <i>Midwives Act 1966</i> (Rev 1990) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) • Malaysia Nursing Board. • Pharmacy Board • Malaysia Dental Association (MDA) • Midwives Board

Table 4-4 may not show the full process in delivering the professional services, but it is intended to assist respondents to gauge the scope of regulatory burden imposed on these Professionals at every stage of the profession. Professionals may encounter numerous regulations other than those stated above such as regulations pertaining to professional fees/ charges, rules in delivering services, contract administration, professional risk and indemnity, etc. may also be raised. Therefore, additional information that may be relevant from the respondents' experience and perspective are welcomed including suggesting any additional regulations which should be added to this list.

Table 4.5 : Summary of Medical Act 1971

Value Chain	Sections	Summary	Applicable to
Pre- Qualifications	Section 34A. Examination and treatment of patients by students of medicine.	Any person who is pursuing medicine or surgery in certified institutions (<i>University Colleges Act 1971</i> or Third Schedule of the Act), can only carry out investigation, examination or treatment of patients in any hospital, clinic, health centre or other institution which is approved under the control and supervision of a fully registered medical practitioner who holds a current and valid annual practising certificate.	
General Practices & Specialisation	12: Persons entitled to provisional registration	He must hold- (i) any of the qualifications specified in the third column of the Second Schedule ; or (ii) a qualification in medicine and surgery other than the qualifications referred to in subparagraph (i), and (b) he produces to the Registrar evidence to the satisfaction of the Registrar that he is being provisionally registered, and has been selected- (i) for employment under section 13(2) or that he is eligible to be exempted therefrom under section 13(6).	Housemen

Value Chain	Sections	Summary	Applicable to
	13: Experience which a provisionally registered person shall be required to obtain	He must engage in employment in a resident medical capacity to the satisfaction of the Medical Qualifying Board for a period of not less than one year in any hospital or institution in Malaysia which is approved by the said Board for the purpose of such employment; four months of such period shall be spent in a resident surgical post, four months in a resident medical post and four months in a resident obstetrical and gynaecological post;	Housemen
	Section 14: Persons entitled to full registration.	He has been provisionally registered under section 12; and he furnishes proof of having satisfied the provisions of section13.	Medical Officers
	Section 16: Temporary practising certificate.	A person who is registered as a medical practitioner outside Malaysia must acquire a temporary certificate to practise but under allowable maximum period of three months	Foreign medical practitioner/ specialists
	Section 20. Annual practising certificate (APC)	The APC is imposed upon all medical practitioners. It must be renewed not later than the first day of December of that year at prescribed fees. All place/s of practice must be registered in the APC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For foreigners, only one place practice is allowed 	Malaysian medical practitioner

Value Chain	Sections	Summary	Applicable to
	Section 26. Privileges of fully registered persons and disabilities of unregistered persons.	Only a fully registered medical practitioners entitled for reasonable charges for professional aid, advice and visits and the value of any medicine or any medical or surgical appliances rendered	Medical practitioner
	Section 41. Period of service in pursuance of a notice under section 40 (1).	A person must serve in a post in a public service in pursuance of a notice issued under section 40(1), for a continuous total period of not less than three years	Medical Officers

Table 4.6 : Summary of Nurses Act 1950 (Amendment 1969) and Nurses Registration Regulation 1985

Value Chain	Sections/ Regulations	Summary	Applicable to
Pre- Qualifications	Section 4. Register of Nurses	(1) It shall be the duty of the board, subject to and in accordance with this Act, to form and keep a register of nurses for the sick.	Board of Nurses
	Section 6. Admission to register of persons trained outside Malaysia.	(2) If any person proves to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she has been trained in anyplace outside Malaysia where the standard of training and examination is not lower than the standard of training and examination required under this	Nurses

Value Chain	Sections/ Regulations	Summary	Applicable to
		<p>Act, either as a general nurse for the sick or as a nurse of some special class, and satisfies the Board as to his or her identity and good character, the Board may, either after examination or without examination, upon payment of the fee prescribed for registration under this Act, direct that that person shall be registered in the appropriate part or parts of the Register.</p>	
	<p>Regulation 13. Training and Examination</p>	<p>(1) No person shall be accepted for training in an approved nurses training school unless he has passed the Malaysia Certificate of Education, the <i>Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia</i> or such other examination as may be accepted by the Board.</p> <p>(2) The nurses training course shall not be less than three years.</p> <p>(3) The Board shall hold periodical and final examinations in subject prescribed by the Board at such times, in such places and subject to such conditions as the Board may from time to time direct.</p>	<p>Nurses</p>

Value Chain	Sections/ Regulations	Summary	Applicable to
	Regulation 15. Certificate of Training	<p>(1) No person shall be entitled to enter for the nurses final examination until he has passed the periodical examinations stipulated by the Board.</p> <p>(2) A person who applies to enter for the nurses final examination shall deposit with the Secretary of the Board a certificate signed by the principal of the training school in which his training was given to the effect that -</p> <p>(a) He has undergone the training prescribed by the Board as is necessary to qualify him for admission to the part of the Register to which the nurses final examination relates;</p> <p>(b) He has undergone systematic instruction in each of the subject prescribed in the syllabus of subject for such examination as approved by the Board; and</p> <p>(c) He is of good conduct</p>	Nurses
General Practices & Specialisation	Regulation 8. Annual Nurse Practicing Certificate	(1) Any person in the general and supplementary parts of the Register who desires to practice after the 31st December of any year shall, not later	Nurses

Value Chain	Sections/ Regulations	Summary	Applicable to
		<p>than the 30th September of that year, make an application in the form set out in the Third Schedule and pay the prescribed fee for a certificate to practice as such.</p> <p>(2) Upon such application and payment, the Register shall issue a certificate (to be styled the „annual nurse practicing certificate“) set out in the Fourth Schedule authorizing the applicant to practice during the year for which the certificate is issued.</p> <p>(3) The annual nurse practising certificate shall be in force until the 31st December of the year in respect of which it is issued.</p> <p>(4) It shall not be necessary for a person who is registered in more than one part of the Register to possess a separate annual nurse practicing certificate for each part.</p>	

4.3 Regulators and Other Related Bodies

The regulatory regimes of Medical Professionals in Malaysia are very extensive and complex as they involve many different ministries, departments and agencies. The principal regulator is the Ministry of Health. The list of ministries, departments and agencies are described together in the Employment Life Cycle Value Chain above. Acts and regulations that are highly related to licensing and permits of professionals in various sectors as well the safety and health regulations are also described above.

However, the primary focus of this report is on the regulatory aspects of occupational regulation operated by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Table 4.7 : Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry of Health and related agencies affecting the accreditation and practice of medical professionals

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Health	<p>To assist an individual in achieving and sustaining as well as maintaining a certain level of health status to further facilitate them in leading a productive lifestyle – economically and socially.</p> <p>This could be recognized by introducing or providing a promotional and preventive approaches, other than an efficient treatment and rehabilitation services, which is suitable and effective, whilst priorities on the less fortunate groups.</p>
Malaysian Medical Council	<p>The core functions of the Council under the statute are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registers only qualified doctors; • Prescribes and promulgates good medical practice; • Promotes and maintains high standards of medical education; and • Deals firmly and fairly with doctors whose fitness to practise is in doubt. • To recognize registration of medical practitioners; • To maintain a Medical Register of all registered medical practitioners in Malaysia;

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To issue practicing certificates to registered medical practitioners; • To promote, recognize and accredit medical education and training programmes and institutions; • To determine and regulate the conduct and ethics of registered medical practitioners; • To consider the cases of medical practitioners who, because of some mental or physical condition, may be unfit to practise medicine; • To review the competence of medical practitioner; • To advise and make recommendations to the Minister of Health on matters relating to the practice of medicine in Malaysia; and • To perform such other functions so as to give effect to the <i>Medical Act 1971</i> as may be prescribed in the Act or assigned by the Minister
<p>Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)</p>	<p>The Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) has 6 primary functions by which it serves the dental profession. The functions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholding and maintaining professional standards and ethics in the practice of dentistry • Recognition of Dental Degrees • Registration of Dental Practitioners in Malaysia • Issuance of Annual Practising Certificates and Temporary Practising Certificates • Maintenance of the Malaysian Dental Register • Exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over registered practitioners

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
<p>Malaysia Nursing Board</p>	<p>Malaysia Nursing Board that oversees training and discipline of nurses to ensure the practice of nursing in the country is carried out as stipulated under the <i>Nurses Act 1950</i> & Nurses Registration Regulations 1985. The practice of nursing requires specialized knowledge, skill, and independent decision making. The core function of the Malaysia Nursing Board is to establish and improve standards of nursing care to protect the public:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep and maintain the Register of nurses • To regulate the nursing practice
<p>Midwife Board</p>	<p>Malaysia Midwifery Board that oversees training and discipline of nurses to ensure the practice of midwives in the country carried out as stipulated under the <i>Midwives Act 1966</i> & Midwives Regulations 1990. The practice of midwives requires specialized knowledge, skill, and independent decision making. The core function of the Malaysia Midwifery Board is to establish and improve standards of midwifery care to protect the public:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate the course of training, conduct of examination, issue of diplomas, certificate and badges • To regulate the practice of midwifery and conduct of midwives

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
<p style="text-align: center;">Pharmacy Board Malaysia</p>	<p>Pharmacy Board Malaysia is established in aligned with section 3, <i>Registration of Pharmacists Act 1951</i>.</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of the Pharmacy Board Malaysia:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration and deregistration of Pharmacists and Bodies Corporates. • Accreditation and recognition of pharmacy degree programmes in Higher Learning Institutions. • Approval of premises for provisional training. • Coordinating and monitoring of minimum Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points for issuance of Annual Retention Certificate. • Setting and conducting of Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination for purpose of pharmacist registration. • Setting standard and monitoring the compliance of institutions to the Guidelines on Approval and Recognition of Pharmacy Degree Programme to ensure the quality of the graduates and also the institutions offering pharmacy course.
<p style="text-align: center;">National Specialist Register</p> <p>(non-regulatory body housing medical specialist responsible for</p>	<p>The National Specialist Register will ensure that doctors designated as specialists are appropriately trained and fully competent to practise the expected higher level of care in the chosen specialty. With the National Specialist Register in place, doctors will be able to identify fellow specialists in the relevant specialties to whom they can refer either for a second</p>

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
<p>specialist registration as recognized by MOH)</p>	<p>opinion or for further management. Importantly, the National Specialist Register protects the public and will help them to identify the relevant specialist doctors to whom they may wish to be referred or may wish to consult. The National Specialist Register is in fact an exercise in self-regulation by the medical profession, striving to maintain and safeguard the high standards of specialist practice in the country, having the interest and safety of the public at heart.</p>
<p>Malaysia Qualification Agency (MQA) under Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE)</p>	<p>The establishment of a new entity which merges the National Accreditation Board (LAN) and the Quality Assurance Division, Ministry of Higher Education (QAD) was approved by the Government on 21 December 2005. This entity is responsible for quality assurance of higher education for both the public and the private sectors.</p> <p>The main role of the MQA is to implement the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) as a basis for quality assurance of higher education and as the reference point for the criteria and standards for national qualifications. Its members comprises of professionals from various sectors. The MQA is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the quality assurance practices and accreditation of national higher education.</p> <p>As a quality assurance body, the functions of MQA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To implement MQF as a reference point for Malaysian qualifications;

Ministry/Agency	Roles and Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop standards and credits and all other relevant instruments as national references for the conferment of awards with the cooperation of stakeholders; - To quality assure higher education institutions and programmes; - To accredit courses that fulfill the set criteria and standards; - To facilitate the recognition and articulation of qualifications; and - To maintain the Malaysian Qualifications Register (MQR)